

The TIS November 11 Newsletter contained some advice about Facebook. I have included below some more information and websites that may be useful for you as a parent. As a school we realise that our role regarding preparing children to be great Digital Citizens is now something we must therefore include in any up-to-date curriculum. We will however need parent and whanau help to achieve this as the 'digital world' of our children does not just happen while they are at school, it is everywhere!

Check out: <http://www.mylgp.org.nz> This is a NZ site (Learn Guide Protect framework devised by NetSafe) that gives us all a great deal of useful advice.

The following question 'What is digital citizenship' poses a challenge for us as educators, a challenge that we cannot ignore and a challenge that parents, whanau and society cannot ignore either.

What is digital citizenship?

Drawing from the Key Competencies and Values in the New Zealand Curriculum and a growing body of research knowledge, NetSafe, in consultation with New Zealand teachers has produced this definition of a New Zealand Digital Citizen.

A digital citizen:

- is a confident and capable user of ICT
- uses technologies to participate in educational, cultural, and economic activities
- uses and develops critical thinking skills in cyberspace
- is literate in the language, symbols, and texts of digital technologies
- is aware of ICT challenges and can manage them effectively
- uses ICT to relate to others in positive, meaningful ways
- demonstrates honesty and integrity and ethical behaviour in their use of ICT
- respects the concepts of privacy and freedom of speech in a digital world
- contributes and actively promotes the values of digital citizenship

Digital literacy or the ability to understand and fully participate in the digital world is fundamental to digital citizenship. It is the combination of technical and social skills that enable a person to be successful and safe in the information age. Like literacy and numeracy initiatives which provide people with the skills to participate in the work force, digital literacy has become an essential skill to be a confident, connected, and actively involved life-long learner.

Reflection on Facebook / Social Media

While the November Newsletter was strong on 11-13 year olds not having a "Facebook" site we also acknowledge that if the school and parents can achieve the goals as stated above, we would have Digital Citizens who use Social Media safely and appropriately and challenges would be minimised. Shouldn't we now be saying that teaching the skills required to be digitally literate are now just as important as maths and literacy?? Food for thought.

These sites may also provide parents with support, advice and ideas – check them out.

<http://www.digitalparents.org/>

<http://www.thedigitalparent.com/>

Also

Protecting your identity in Facebook

Introduction: People have become increasingly concerned about Facebook's recent moves such as turning "your" profile page into your identity online without your permission and making your information public by default. There's money in distributing your information, such as where you live, likes, friends etc. and they have been turning your information over to third parties, i.e. advertisers for profit -without you knowing.

The evolution (or erosion) of your private data makes for an interesting read at <http://mattmckeeon.com/facebook-privacy> "It is now a fact of life that all of the private data you have been pumping into Facebook for years, does not belong to you, never did, and Facebook can do whatever they like with it, including sharing it with whomever they choose." Nigel Hull, CORE Education. For more on this violation of privacy, go to <http://www.wired.com/epicenter/2010/05/facebook-rogue/>

If you are concerned about your privacy in Facebook and don't want your private information shared with third party sites without your consent, then be proactive and reclaim your privacy settings in Facebook. Follow some simple rules for how to protect your identity and reputation. People need to check their Facebook settings to...

- Set your site to private
 - Remove flirty photos
 - Remove flirty nicknames
 - Remove surnames
 - Don't friend randoms
 - Remove mobile numbers
 - Keep the people who can see all your stuff to friends, not friends of friends
 - When you have finished in Facebook, log out and clear your browsers privacy settings to remove all cookies set by Facebook
 - Use a separate browser to use Facebook, and only use Facebook on this browser, nothing else.
- or
- Ditch Facebook completely, remove your account, choose a more [secure social networking site](#) and never go back.
- Commonsense media provides [3 Simple Rules to Keep in Mind](#) when working in Facebook.

● **Stick with your friends.** Have your teens limit their privacy settings to Only Friends. That will restrict who sees your kids' information, including pictures, videos, and applications they use.

● **Keep private information private.** When filling out their bios, teens can leave fields blank. There is no need for your teens to post their phone numbers or addresses. These features are optional and aren't required to create a Facebook account.

● **Don't let your information get away from you.** If your teens haven't restricted who can share their information, their personal data can end up in the hands of marketers. Also, advise your teens to be on the lookout for personal information requests -- like their birthday or music playlist -- from third parties. And make sure your teens uncheck the public search results box so people can't find their Facebook page through a Google search. Taken directly from Commonsense Media - [3 Simple Rules to Keep in Mind](#)

Other great practices from [SafetyWeb](#) include:

1. Group your Friends List
2. Remove Yourself From Facebook Search Results
3. Remove Yourself From Google
4. Avoid the Infamous Photo/Video Tag Mistake
5. Protect Your Albums
6. Prevent Stories From Showing Up in Your Friends' News Feeds
7. Protect Against Published Application Stories
8. Make Your Contact Information Private
9. Avoid Embarrassing Wall Posts
10. Keep Your Friendships Private

[Source – SafetyWeb.com](#)

